# November 19, 2009 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

#### I. Call to Order

Toni Snow recorded these minutes.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Sarav Chithambaram, Toni Snow, Colby Berger, Mal Malme, Bob Parlin, Lesley Phillips, Priscilla Lee

Guest: Chris Burke, Cambridge Police Department

- **II. Motion to Accept Agenda**: Passed.
- III. Motion to Accept Minutes from Oct. 22, 2009 meeting: Passed.

### IV. Updates

- **Membership**: Four openings for new GLBT commission members have been posted. John G. will follow up with City Manager regarding decisions by mid-December. Commissioners may be getting copies of the applications to review.
- GOAL Award Ceremony, October 30th: The event was excellent. Attended by 160 GOAL officers and friends/family members. Cambridge attendees included GLBT Commission Co-chairs Sarav Chithambaram and John Gintell, Secretary Toni Snow, Police Commissioner Robert Haas, Lt. Steve Ahern, CPD training director Joanne Shapiro, Mayor Simmons, Gloria Kinkaid and Irene Monroe. GLBT Commission received GOAL's Community Service award. We need to determine where award will be kept.

# V. Guest Presentation – Cambridge Police, Superintendent Chris Burke

#### GLBT Liaison position at CPD and related issues:

Superintendent Burke has spent 25 years with CPD, in several different positions. He is currently involved in a review of all City boards and commissions to improve communications with CPD. Including police perspective in composition of boards/commissions can also improve public relations.

Burke is also working on defining the CPD GLBT Liaison position currently held by Steve Ahern and our input can help shape the role to include more defined responsibilities, greater accountability and improved communication with the Department. Liaison should receive training, attend commission meetings, and report back to command staff. John Gintell will look for information about GLBT liaison positions in other police departments.

#### **Hate Crimes**:

Supt. Burke pointed out that the underreporting of hate crimes involving sexual orientation and gender biases is a significant problem. Two reasons for underreporting are 1) victims and witnesses often do not call police to report and 2) a reported hate crime may not be recognized as such by police. We discussed reviewing cases to identify HC that slip through cracks and also the need for a safety net to catch HC sooner. The problem of underreporting has a precedent in the area of domestic violence, where a checklist has been implemented in some cities to aid early identification.

**Follow up**: Toni S. will contact GOAL and Provincetown Police (and possibly San Francisco and DC) to get their input and see if they have special procedures to identify hate crimes.

# VI. Events

Mal M. described a personal safety/self defense workshop planned for spring. Workshop will be offered by IMPACT Self Defense -3-5 hours. We discussed making it a youth-focused event and talked about contacting Ed Byrne to involve the high school. **Bob P. will follow up.** 

Supt. Burke mentioned CPD's grant writer might be able to advise us on seeking grant funds

Follow up: Toni S. will follow up with Supt. Burke re grant seeking assistance.

VII. Announcement: There will be meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 51 Inman St. to plan for this year's Holocaust Memorial. **John Gintell will attend for Commission**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.